

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Official Communication. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive, and is believed to place the application in condition for examination and allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are hereby respectfully requested.

The Official Communication comprises a restriction requirement identifying Group I (claims 1-47, 59-74, 76-78 and 80-82) and Group II (claims 48-58, 75 and 79). The Examiner identified 3 groups of patentably distinct species among the claims of Group I, namely, groups a, b and c. Applicants elect Group a of group I without traverse.

Claims 1-82 have been cancelled. New claims 83-90 have been added which read on the elected species.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in the context of a continuing application.

Without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the canceled claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to cancel claims 1-12, 45, 59-68, 76 and 80 and add new claims 83-90 which read on the elected species.

The replacement claims are supported by the published PCT patent application, inter alia, as follows:

Claim 83: page 6 lines 27-28, page 16 line 12 to page 17 line 9, page 17 lines 29-31, page 18 lines 3-5, page 20 lines 10-31, page 21 lines 17-18, page 25 lines 5-7, page 25 lines 13-25, page 26 lines 1-30.

Claim 84: page 6 lines 27-28, page 25 lines 13-25 and page 26 lines 1-30.

Claim 85: page 20 line 10, page 21, line 13 and page 26 line 26.

Claim 86: page 26 lines 25-27 and page 29 line 30 to page 30 line 2.

Claim 87: page 16 line 12, page 29 line 30 to page 30 line 2.

Claim 88: page 35 lines 5, 16 and 18, page 40 lines 1-9 and page 41 lines 7-13.

Claim 89 is a method claim corresponding to system claim 83.

Claim 90 is a systems claim in means-plus-function form, corresponding to claim 83.

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